



Racer One statue outside the Curris Center.

Be Bold: Forever Blue & Gold Centennial Campaign most successful fundraising effort in University's history

Following a record-breaking level of generosity from donors and friends across the country, Murray State University's Be Bold: Forever Blue & Gold Centennial Campaign has reached an unprecedented level of total gifts and new documented commitments making it the most successful campaign in the history of the University. With total gifts and commitments now exceeding \$74 million as of March 1, 2024, the University is making excellent progress toward its goal of raising \$100 million through this historic campaign.

"As a student, it is so encouraging to hear about the incredible giving from our donors for the Be Bold: Forever Blue & Gold Centennial Campaign. These gifts are helping students right here, right now," explained current president of the Murray State University Student Government Association and student regent, Ellie McGowan. "With each scholarship, every well-equipped facility and every resource made available, our potential is magnified. Thank you for investing in our education."

Murray State University earns top honors for online master's degree programs

Murray State University has been recognized as one of the best schools for online master's degrees in 2024 by OnlineMastersDegrees.org.

Just 9 percent of U.S. colleges and universities earned the distinction.

Murray State's online master's programs earned top honors in the following subject areas: economics, dietetics, speech pathology and communications.



Veterinary Technology students work with cows.

Legislative support and progress continues toward the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine

Progress toward a new School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University continues to be made, as House Bill 400 was passed by the Kentucky House of Representatives on Feb. 15 after advancing from the House Agriculture Committee on Feb. 7.

House Bill 400, introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chair Richard Heath, would amend the existing state statute to allow Murray State to offer doctoral degrees required to become licensed in veterinary medicine. Senate Bill 189 is a companion bill introduced by State Sen. Jason Howell. Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson and Hutson School of Agriculture Dean Dr. Brian Parr presented at a Senate committee hearing in late February as the initiative continues to gather statewide support.

"We are very grateful for the support of our legislators in working toward the development of a new School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University. These are major steps as we continue to move forward through the legislative process," Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson said. "This initiative is a vitally important one for the recruitment and retention of future veterinarians in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and in our region. We have a tremendous opportunity in front of us to greatly enhance a key workforce initiative and a multi-billion dollar industry in our state while meeting the needs of the agricultural industry."

Kentucky is one of more than 20 states without a School of Veterinary Medicine. In the United States, there are only 33 veterinary colleges accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there are 86,300 veterinarians in the United States and this occupation is expected to grow by over 19 percent by 2031. The BLS also reports a total of 122,800 veterinarian technologists/

technicians are working today and the field is expected to grow by 20 percent by 2031.

Murray State's Hutson School of Agriculture has the largest estimated pre-veterinary medicine/veterinary technology enrollment of any university in Kentucky and is just one of three programs in Kentucky that is fully accredited by the AVMA.

Murray State students are provided valuable hands-on learning opportunities that prepare them for success upon graduation. The University's A. Carman Animal Health Technology Center, located on Murray State's West Farm in Calloway County, offers state-of-the-art equipment and supplies to prepare students for a career in the field of veterinary medicine.

The Breathitt Veterinary Center at Murray State University, under the direction of the Hutson School of Agriculture, is located in Christian County, Kentucky, and is a nationally preeminent animal disease diagnostic laboratory dedicated to protecting the invaluable assets of Kentucky's equine, livestock and poultry industries. The center is the only Level 1 Laboratory Status designated by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory system and one of only 60 laboratories in the United States (one of 23 laboratories with Level 1 status). The center serves as an important teaching and learning facility for Murray State students.

To date, Murray State has adopted a resolution of support by its Board of Regents, established a School of Veterinary Medicine Task Force comprised of leading agricultural professionals, completed a feasibility study that indicated many benefits of a new School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University and gathered support from various legislators, governmental entities, communities, industry representatives, organizations and individuals.



Graduates of the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in P-20 and Community Leadership program celebrate after the Hooding Ceremony.

College of Education and Human Services Ed.D. program enrollment continues to grow

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in P-20 and Community Leadership program at Murray State University is one of the first doctorates in the nation to provide an innovative, integrated P-20 approach to educational leadership across the learning continuum.

The program features specializations in postsecondary leadership, pK-12 leadership and agriculture education. The College of Education and Human Services' Ed.D. is designed for working professionals, intentionally integrating a cohort approach to learning.

Since the Ed.D. program started admitting students in 2014, 253 doctoral students have enrolled. The program admits students in both the fall and spring semesters, consistently admitting

between 30-40 students per year. Current enrollment is 108, and of that, 66 students are now working on their dissertations, while the remaining 42 have not yet started. In total, 113 students have completed their dissertations. Twenty dissertations were started for the 2023-24 academic year, while twelve dissertations are expected to be completed this semester. Fifteen to twenty graduates are anticipated for this academic year.

Students can complete the Ed.D. program entirely online. No on-campus components are required and they can access classrooms virtually for weekend courses. Tuition for the program is among the most affordable for doctoral programs in the area, offering the same costs for both in-state and out-of-state students.



The School of Nursing and Health Professions boasts the largest BSN program class in its history.

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The Murray State University School of Nursing and Health Professions recently admitted 46 students to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the largest in program history.

This four-year program prepares students for beginning levels of nurse practice and fulfills the educational requirements to write the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses. There are three semesters of pre-requisite courses and five semesters of nursing courses. Clinical experiences also take place throughout the region and in a variety of settings to prepare students for life in the field of nursing.

Murray State broke ground on a new School of Nursing and Health Professions building on Dec. 8, 2023.

To learn more about Murray State's nursing program, visit murraystate.edu/nursing.



Learn more about the nursing program



High school students engineer a survival shelter.

Murray State University hosts largest Engineering Day in program history

The Murray State University School of Engineering hosted approximately 600 students across 21 high schools for Engineering Day 2024, a series of science, technology, engineering and math-centered challenges designed to teach engineering and construction concepts under the direction of Murray State faculty and staff.

The turnout was the largest Engineering Day in program history.

Students competed in 15 events across campus. The University's Engineering and Physics Building served as the main hub, hosting competitions ranging from engineering design, robotics, computer-aided design, carbon dioxide-powered car races and physics.

Students also raced kayaks constructed from PVC pipe and plastic wrap in the Susan E. Bauernfeind Wellness Center swimming pool, showed off robots of their own creation and engineered survival shelters.

To learn more about Murray State University's School of Engineering, visit murraystate.edu/engineering. Visit bit.ly/3TIFc7T to view a video recap from the record-setting day.



Learn more about the School of Engineering



Watch the Engineering Day video recap